



COLORADO

Overview of Community Corrections

Katie Ruske, Manager &
Chrystal Owin, Implementation and Transition Coordinator
Office of Community Corrections, Division of Criminal Justice

Presentation to the Sentence Structure Working Group
of the Sentencing Reform Task Force of the Colorado Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice
9/14/2021



COLORADO
Department of Public Safety

Relevant Statutes

Community Correction Primarily Serves
Individuals with Felonies



§18-1.3-301. Authority to place offenders in community corrections programs

(1) (a) Any judge of a district court may refer any offender convicted of a felony to a community corrections program unless such offender is required to be sentenced pursuant to section 18-1.3-406 (1) or a sentencing provision that requires a sentence to the department of corrections. If an offender who is sentenced pursuant to section 18-1.3-406 (1) has such sentence modified upon the finding of unusual and extenuating circumstances pursuant to such section, such offender may be referred to a community corrections program if such offender is otherwise eligible for such program and is approved for placement pursuant to section 17-27-103 (5), C.R.S., and section 17-27-104 (3), C.R.S. For the purposes of this article, persons sentenced pursuant to the provisions of sections 19-2-908 (1) (a) (I) and (1) (c) (I) (B) and 19-2-910 (2), C.R.S., shall be deemed to be offenders.

(2) (a) Initial referral. The executive director of the department of corrections may transfer any offender who is eligible pursuant to this subsection (2) to a community corrections program if such offender is accepted for placement by a community corrections board pursuant to section 17-27-103, C.R.S., and a community corrections program pursuant to section 17-27-104, C.R.S.

Exceptions in statute to allow for non-felony offenders

(4) (a) District courts, county courts, and other local criminal justice officials may enter into agreements with community corrections programs which include the use of such programs to supervise offenders awaiting trial for felony or misdemeanor offenses, offenders convicted of misdemeanors, or offenders under deferred judgments, **OR TO ACCEPT FOR RESIDENTIAL PLACEMENT PERSONS CONVICTED OF MISDEMEANOR OFFENSES AS AN ALTERNATIVE SENTENCE TO A COUNTY JAIL SENTENCE.** Such agreements are subject to review and approval by the community corrections board of the jurisdiction in which any community corrections program making such agreement is located. Any such use of a community corrections program may be supported with funding from local governments, public or private grants, offender fees, and other sources **other than the state general fund.**

(b) A district court, county court, and any other criminal justice official may enter into agreements with community corrections programs that provide residential drug treatment, for the placement and supervision of offenders as a term and condition of probation when **assessed treatment need levels indicate that residential drug treatment is necessary and appropriate.** The agreement is subject to review and approval by the community corrections board in the jurisdiction where a community corrections program is located. A community corrections program used pursuant to this paragraph (b) may **receive funds from the correctional treatment cash fund,** as well as local funding, public or private grants, or offender fees.

Points about the Statute

- One purpose of community corrections (CC) is a cost effective alternative to prison, hence the focus on felony offenders.

FY22 CC Base Residential Per Diem	FY22 CC Non-Residential Per Diem	FY19 DOC Average Per Diem
\$49.16	\$6.65	\$116.89

- Currently per statute, there is no situation where a misdemeanor is to be paid for with General Fund Dollars
- Misdemeanants on probation can be referred to Intensive Residential Treatment, if they are assessed as needing residential treatment. Paid for with CTF.

Consideration for the Sentence Structure Working Group:

Any offense reclassified from a felony to a misdemeanor, is no longer eligible for community corrections placement paid through General Fund Dollars under the current statute.

Relevant Data

Data Pertaining to Working Group Questions



Length of Stay vs. Sentence Lengths

Length of Stay in Days for Successful Completions of Community Corrections Diversion Population	
Residential LOS	Non-Residential LOS
269.71	317

Per §18-1.3-401, C.R.S., a community corrections sentence could be as long as 24 years.

What is Happening in Community Corrections



Performance Based Contracting

What is PBC?

PBC is a contracting method that bases payments, extension, or renewals on contractor performance.

JBC Request for Information due January 2022

Request includes:

- payment models
- outcomes to evaluate the performance of community providers and local community corrections boards
- a warning system for underperforming providers
- baseline targets and frequency of audits and evaluations

Our Shared Vision

What is our objective?

PBC is an innovative, transparent & fiscally responsible strategy ensuring local, safe & accountable providers deliver services & support to community corrections clients.

Why?

The criminal justice system and communities benefit from researched, rehabilitative sentencing options. Local boards and providers serve the diverse clientele with additional OCC support, training and technical assistance resulting in lower recidivism rates.

How will we get there?

This program offers the opportunity to listen and collaborate with community correction stakeholders, apply established research and provide clear, concise guidance to increase the quality and quantity of help & supportive programs to our communities.



COLORADO

QUESTIONS?

Overview of Community Corrections
Katie Ruske, Manager &
Chrystal Owin, Implementation and Transition Coordinator
Office of Community Corrections, Division of Criminal Justice

Presentation to the Sentence Structure Working Group
of the Sentencing Reform Task Force of the Colorado Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice
9/14/2021



COLORADO
Department of Public Safety